

# 2008 Award Recipients

## OUTSTANDING LOCAL JSEC CHAIR

*The recipient of this award is a Local JSEC Chairperson who has contributed over and above the normal expectations for this position.*

Nominees – Becky Brough, Bitterroot JSEC; and Wanda Williams, Missoula JSEC

**Recipient - Wanda Williams, Chair of the Missoula JSEC; nominated by Missoula JSEC.**

While serving as the Missoula JSEC Chair, Wanda

- challenged the Council to develop an award designed to recognize exceptional employment practices by a local business, and instituted a strategic plan process through which the *Missoula Employer of Choice Award* was born;
- set up an aggressive monthly schedule of guest speakers to address timely topics of interest in order to obtain maximum participation by members of the Missoula JSEC;
- been instrumental in assisting the Job Service generate an estimated \$15,000 in revenue in support of the *Western Montana Premier Employment and Training Fair*; and
- built a partnership with the Bitterroot JSEC and conducted the 4th annual *Career Road Show* at a local high school.

Wanda has never lost sight of the need to preserve the insight obtained through the council's successes so as to enable future leaders to build on them and to grow the Missoula JSEC

## OUTSTANDING LOCAL JSEC COMMITTEE

*The Local JSEC Committee who will receive this award embodies a willingness to strengthen the Local Committee and the Job Service. The JSEC must serve and build vital partnerships with employers and the community in addition to participating in activities and local events.*

Nominees – Bitterroot JSEC, and Missoula JSEC

**Recipient - Missoula Job Service Employers Council; nominated by Wanda Williams**

The Missoula JSEC participated in a myriad of activities that strengthened their local Council and community. Some of the activities include:

- recruiting three additional members to ensure that members are active, representative of the community, and adhere to their goals and objectives;
- reviewed and updated By-Laws making sure to include the language provided by the Montana Secretary of State's Office to satisfy the dissolution language required by the IRS for being designated a 501(c)(3) organization;
- beginning each seminar by having a Job Service employee speak to the group about various facets of the Job Service in order to educate the public about the Job Service programs and services;
- sponsored and assisted with a complete redesign of the *Western Montana's Premier Employment and Training Fair Opportunity Knocks!*;
- implementing the *Employer of Choice* award;
- presented quarterly low-cost seminars to the business community;
- increased focus of the annual Employment and Training Fair to include more "career" than "job" employers;
- built a partnership with the Bitterroot JSEC to jointly organize a "Career Road Show;" and
- recruited a JSEC member to serve on the local BEAR committee.

## OUTSTANDING LOCAL JSEC COORDINATOR

*An exemplary Local JSEC Coordinator actively supports and participates in assisting the local committee to achieve their stated goals.*

Nominees – Kathleen Cannon-Single, Bitterroot; Barbara Hardy, Great Falls; Julie Hallock, Glasgow; and Michelle Vincent, Butte

**Recipient - Barbara Hardy, JSEC Coordinator at the Great Falls Job Service; nominated by Rhonda Huseby**

Barbara has successfully served the community and supported the Great Falls JSEC. She:

- organizes monthly JSEC meetings, seeks input into the agenda, reminds members of the meetings, and then makes sure that each meeting is well prepared;
- presents information at many workshops as a representative of JSEC;
- is involved in many groups including SHRM, Great Falls Area Chamber, Workforce Development Committee, YWCA, Women's Entrepreneurial Network, Employer Expo Organizer, Great Falls Entrepreneurial Group, and is an interviewer and assessment team member of the Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) Program; and

- seeks JSEC input into the annual JSEC scholarship application, notifies schools of the opportunity, mails out application forms, and then collects and tracks applications.

Barb has also been working on the local organizational piece of the Annual JSEC/Managers meeting. She has made meeting arrangements, found speakers, solicited and obtained raffle prize donations, and printed raffle tickets.

## **OUTSTANDING LOCAL JOB SERVICE WORKFORCE CENTER MANAGEMENT PERSON**

*The Local Job Service Workforce Center Management Person who is recognized for this award actively supports and participates in assisting the local committee to achieve their stated goals.*

Nominees – Mona Amundson, Glasgow & Wolf Point; Patti Furniss, Bitterroot; and Johnette Watkins, Libby

**Recipient - Patti Furniss, Manager, Bitterroot Job Service Workforce Center; nominated by Julie Foster, Ravalli County Economic Development Authority.**

Patti's support of the Bitterroot JSEC-sponsored seminars and education of her office staff is continually evidenced, especially during JSEC-seminar opportunities. The Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) Program is flourishing due in part to staff participation at Patti's guidance and encouragement. At the annual Community Fair, Patti involved each staff member of the Bitterroot Job Service Workforce Center; and together with JSEC volunteers a successful event was assured. Patti has a positive vision for Bitterroot's local community and the big heart required to making it a reality. Patti currently serves as:

- Vice-Chair Elect of the Bitterroot Valley Community College of Trustees;
- President of the Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce; and
- Vice-Chair of the Ravalli County Economic Development Authority.

Patti has also served in a variety of other community service organizations including the Literacy Bitterroot Board of Directors.

## **JSEC "SPARK PLUG" AWARD**

*The recipient of this award demonstrates commitment to JSEC and whose involvement in local or state JSEC activities has been an outstanding example of leadership in action.*

Nominees – Louise Rice, Libby Area Chamber of Commerce

**Recipient - Louise Rice of the Libby Area Chamber of Commerce; nominated by Debi Davidson**

Louise has been a very important part of economic development and is very involved in JSEC. Louise has been instrumental in:

- developing the Libby Parade of Lights at Christmas;
- establishing a community program to help families in need at Christmas with food, clothing, and presents for children;
- being part of the Lincoln County Tourism Group;
- working with Logger Days, Nordicfest, Irish Fair, and STOKR;
- representing the community at the Governor's Conference on Tourism, and the NW Chamber Leaders conference; and
- acting as a liaison with the City of Libby and Lincoln County Commissioners on the many community events in South Lincoln County.

Louise was directly responsible for bringing the PRCA Rodeo to Libby. From 2005 through 2007, the rodeo won the Most Improved Rodeo on the Montana Circuit. Louise exerts enthusiasm, professionalism, and does a remarkable job in supporting the community as a whole.